





# Lajna Matters

A Publication of Lajna Ima'illah & Nasiratul Ahmadiyya USA

December 2023

Highlights of Jan-Dec 2022

Issue 1

Material from this issue is from January 2022 to December 2022.

#### **Special Features**

Holy Qur'an Hadith Malfoozat Huzoor's (aba) Sermon Message from Sadr Lajna National Correspondence Taleem Matters **Tarbiyyat Matters Tabligh Matters** Khidmat-e-Khalq Matters Nau Mubaiyat Matters Media Watch Matters **Nasirat Matters Umoore Talibaat Matters** Public Affairs Matters **Publication Matters Urdu Section** 

Holy Qur'an

لَا يُكَلِّفُ ٱللهُ نَفْسًا إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا أَلَهَا مَا كَسَبَتُ وَعَلَيْهَا مَا أَكْتَسَبَ تُ رَبَّنَا لَا تُؤَاخِذُنَا إِن نَسِينَا أَوْ أَخْطَأْنَا أَربَّنَا وَلَاتَحْمِلُ عَلَيْنَا إِصْرًا كَمَا حَمَلْتَهُ, عَلَى ٱلَّذِينَ مِن قَبلِنَا أَربَّنَا وَلَا تُحَمِّلُنَا مَا لَا طَاقَةَ لَنَا بِهِ \_ وَاعْفُ عَنَّا وَاعْفِرْ لَنَا وَارْحَمُنَا أَنْتَ مَوْلَنَا فَانْصُر نَا عَلَى ٱلْقَوْمِ ٱلْكُفِرِينَ ﴿

Allah burdens not any soul beyond its capacity. It shall have the reward it earns, and it shall get the punishment it incurs. Our Lord, do not punish us, if we forget or fall into error; and our Lord, lay not on us a responsibility as Thou didst lay upon those before us. Our Lord, burden us not with what we have not the strength to bear; and efface our sins, and grant us forgiveness and have mercy on us; Thou art our Master; so help us Thou against the disbelieving people. [2:287]

All members are asked to make use of the resources provided by Jama'at and Lajna in order to improve their reading and their comprehension of the Holy Qur'an. All Majaalis are requested to spend 10-15 minutes during their General Meetings to improve their Tarteel.

## Hadith

Abu Darda' relates that he heard the Holy Prophet pbuh say: For him who adopts a path seeking knowledge, Allah eases the way to Paradise and occupation, and all that are in the heavens and the earth, including the fish in the water, ask for forgiveness for a learned one. A learned one is superior to a worshiper as the moon is superior to all the planets. The divines are heirs of the Prophets and the Prophets do not leave an inheritance of dirhams and dinars but only of knowledge. He who acquires knowledge acquires a vast portion.

(Abu Daud and Tirmidhi)







## From the Writings of the Promised Messiahas

#### Malfuzat, vol. 1, pp. 163-164

Another cause which gives rise to the habit of abandoning Prayer and becoming indolent is that when an individual inclines towards that which is besides Allah, the faculties of the soul and heart forever remain bent in that direction in the manner of a tree (whose branches are bent in a certain direction and then left to grow in that shape). The hearts of such people become so rough and hard that they solidify, like a rock, in the very manner of the branches I have just described. After they harden, they cannot be bent in any other direction. So too is the case with a person's heart and soul, which continue to move further away from God with every passing day. Therefore, to forsake Allah Almighty and ask of another is a very dangerous thing and makes the heart tremble. This is why it is absolutely necessary to regularly observe the Prayer, so that first and foremost, it becomes a deep-rooted habit and a person becomes inclined to turn towards Allah. Then gradually a time comes when one attains to a state in which they become completely detached from all other relations to the exclusion of Allah; and in this state, they become the recipient of divine light and derive pleasure in Prayer.

## From the Friday Sermon of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih Vaba

His Holiness (aba) quoted the Promised Messiah (as) who said that God Almighty has provided three things for the guidance of humankind; the first is the Holy Qur'an. It teaches the esteemed and sublime rank of God, and it also resolves various issues, such as those between the Jews and the Christians and elucidates the misconception of Jesus (as) dying a cursed death on the cross. The Holy Qur'an eliminates all elements of Shirk (associating partners with God). The Holy Qur'an opens the paths of salvation. All success and salvation are dependent on the Holy Qur'an. There is no spiritual need which cannot be found in the Holy Qur'an. There is no book under the heavens than the Holy Qur'an which can furnish the means for guidance. The Promised Messiah(as) said that God has done a great favor upon us by sending the Holy Qur'an to us. Had the Holy Qur'an been revealed to the Christians, they would not have gone astray. Hence, we must be grateful for this immense favor and blessing that has been bestowed upon us. It is the ultimate means of saving us. His Holiness (aba) said that statistics show that these days, more and more Christians are leaving Christianity because they are unable to find spiritual contentment. It is unfortunate that some Muslims neglect the Holy Qur'an despite having the ultimate spiritual guide. The Promised Messiah (as) said that if one were to follow the commandments of the Holy Qur'an and live their lives accordingly, then the Holy Qur'an can enable them to adopt the ways of the prophets. At the very outset, the Holy Qur'an teaches the prayer: 'Guide us to the right path. The path of those upon whom You have bestowed Your blessings'. Those upon whom blessings were bestowed refers to the prophets, the truthful, the martyrs and the righteous. Hence, one must not abandon the Holy Qur'an, for it seeks to bestow the same blessings that it did on those before us. The Promised Messiah (as) further explained that the second means of guidance is the Sunnah (practice of the Holy Prophet (sa) and the third is the Hadith. (February 3, 2023)





## Message from Hazrat Khalifatul Masih Vaba



LONDON LS: 3542 DATE: 18.4.22

Dear Sadr Lajna Imaillah USA, Assalamo Alaikum wa Rahmatullahe wa Barakatohu

I have received your activity reports for the months of February and March 2022, together with request for prayers. Jazakamullah.

Your report shows that members actively participated in some activities including the National Webinar program on the pandemic arranged by the Sihat Jismani department. The benefits of exercise was also shared with members and various other gatherings related to health matters including Covid-19. It is heartening to read that many worthy causes and persons were supported this month through the various donations and assistance given under the Khidmate Khalq department.

Although a range of activities were conducted for the Sana'at wa Dastkari department, such as handicraft, employment and computer skills, only a very few members benefitted from this. Strive to encourage both Lajna and Nasirat members to participate in these classes to learn these essential life skills. Jazak'Allah.

May Allah bless Lajna Imaillah USA in their sincere endeavours, Ameen.

Please convey my loving Salam to all the Lajna and Nasirat members in USA.

Wassalam,

Yours sincerely,

Mirza Masroor Ahmad KHALIFATUL-MASIH V







## Message from Hazrat Khalifatul Masih Vaba



LONDON LS: 4611 DATE: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Sadr Lajna Imaillah USA, Assalamo Alaikum wa Rahmatullahe wa Barakatohu

I have received your activity report for the months of November and December 2022, together with request for prayers. Jazakamullah.

Your reports give a good account of the activities and programs that have been organised for the benefit of your members during this period. It is good to note from your reports that the Tabligh activities of your members included holding interfaith events that were attended by invited guests from outside the Jama'at. I am pleased to note that you were able to achieve two Bai'ats during the month of December. The Tarbiyat Nau Mubai'at department arranged programs to invite new members to make friends within the Community as well as encouraging them to attend Jama'at activities and functions. Employment and computer skills were taught under the Sana'at wa Dastkari department. Many activities were under taken by the Khidmate Khalq department, including teaching English to new immigrants. The needy amongst these were also provided with financial support. May Allah bless your efforts with a good reward and keep you all under His benign care. Ameen.

Please convey my loving Salam to all the Lajna and Nasirat members in the USA.

Wassalam.

Yours sincerely,

Mirza Masroor Ahmad KHALIFATUL-MASIH V







## Message from Sadr Lajna Ima'illah USA, Dhiya Bakr Sahiba

In the Name of Allah, The Gracious, The Merciful

Dhiya Tahira Bakr-Sadr, Lajna Ima'Illah-USA



August 27, 2022

السَّلاَمُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Assalamo Alaikum wa Rahmatullahe wa Barakatahu.

Dear local sadraat,

I pray that you and your majlis are doing well. As we approach the end of our fiscal year, there are a few reminders that I like you to ensure are implemented.

#### Reminders:

**Lajna Pledge:** Please remember your lajna pledge always; ... that we will make sacrifices for the cause of our faith, nation *And* the perpetuation of the Ahmadiyya Khilafat. Pertaining to lajna meetings; "The local sadr should recite the Lajna Ima'illah Pledge even if a member of the National Amila is attending as a member of the Local Majlis/Sector (Halqa)" (Markaz letter to all National Sadraat, 6.30.22).

**Social Media:** No lajna member should have their photos on any social media. They should remove them. Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih aba is advising Ahmadi ladies for their own benefit to refrain from posting their pictures on social media. (Circular from Markaz to all National Sadraat, 8.10.22). It is our duty to respect and show love for our Khilfat by demonstrating 'we hear, and we obey/samina wa atana'.

**Purdah:** Purdah is a commandment from Holy Quran (24:32 and 33:60) and a subject repeatedly advocated by our beloved Huzoor aba for us to follow. Khilafatul Masih V aba stated, "...It should always be remembered that the commandment of Purdah is a Quranic injunction, and it must be observed..." (Letter to Sadr Lajna Ima'illah USA for members, 07.23.2022).

**Financial Sacrifices:** The Lajna fiscal year ends September 30, 2022. Please encourage your members to complete their financial commitments including submitting a jamaat budget form found on our lajna website under Maal.

**On kindness:** And they worship Allah... and show kindness to parents, kindred...behave beneficently towards the neighbor that is a kinsman and the neighbor that is a stranger and the companion by your side...and the wayfarer/traveler... (4:37)

As we anxiously await the arrival of our beloved Huzoor aba to the USA, let's remember to practice the guidance above and not be the one whom the Holy Quran (26:227) references as

وَاَنَّهُمۡ يَقُوۡلُوۡنَ مَا لَا يَفۡعَلُوۡنَ

And that they say what they practice not?

I am remembering us in my prayers, please pray for those who are preparing for our beloved Huzoor aba visit and for me too. JazakAllah Ahsan Al Jaza/May Allah grant you the best of rewards.

Wa Alaikum Salaams,

Dheyn John

Dhiya Tahira Bakr humbly serving as Sadr, Lajna Ima'illah USA





### Taleem Matters

#### **Baypoint**

On October 29, 2022, Baypoint Lajna held a Seerat-un-Nabi event. The event was attended by 23 Lajna, 3 Nasirat, and 8 guests.

#### Cleveland

On October 30, 2022, Cleveland Lajna held a Seerat-un-Nabi event. During the program, there were speeches presented as well as a recitation of Qasida by Nasirat.

#### **Fort Worth**

On November 19, 2022, Fort Worth Lajna held a Seerat-un-Nabi program that was attended by local Lajna and several guests. The program included a presentation on the humility and generosity of the Holy Prophet (pbuh), a speech on the rights of women in Islam, as well as a speech in Urdu on the Holy Prophet (pbuh). In September 2022, Fort Worth Lajna held a Khilafat Day program. The program included a presentation on obedience to Khilafat and nizam-e-jamaat, a speech in Urdu on the need for Khilafat, a quiz activity about Khilafat, and an Urdu speech and tarana by Nasirat.

#### Georgia/South Carolina

On August 27, 2022, Georgia/South Carolina Lajna held a local Lajna ijtema. The program included an interactive workshop on the blessings of Khilafat and instilling the love of Khilafat in children's hearts, a workshop on tarbiyyat of daughters, and jeopardy based on the book, "The Need for the Imam." A guest speaker at the ijtema spoke on science and research. The ijtema included a table setting competition, as well as a handicraft competition to design a scarf.

#### Maryland

On January 14, 2022, Maryland Lajna held a special Seerat-un-Nabi event at the Sandy Spring Museum that was attended by 53 Lajna and 23 guests. The event was part of an annual series on understanding Islam that Maryland Lajna hosts at the museum. This year, the theme of the event was focused on science and the Holy Quran, and answering the question if Muslim teachings, as practiced by Holy Prophet (pbuh) and his followers, make sense according to modern-day science. The program included the recitation of the Holy Quran and English translation by a Maryland Nasira, two presentations by Maryland Lajna, tarana by Maryland Nasirat, and a session for questions. During the event, Maryland Umoore-e-Talibaat organized an exhibition on Islam and science.



On February 5, 2022, Maryland held a Seeratun-Nabi program at Baitur Rahman mosque. The program was attended by 180 Lajna.

On August 20, 2022, Maryland Lajna held a Khilafat Day program virtually. A total of 183 Lajna attended. The program included inspirational stories and personal experiences with Khilafat. National Lajna Tarbiyyat Secretary



conducted an interactive session during the program, titled "What is Khilafat? Turning our fears into peace."

#### Miami

On September 17, 2022, Miami Lajna held an annual Lajna and Nasirat Ijtema at Baitul Naseer mosque. The Ijtema was attended by 41 Lajna and 12 Nasirat. The theme of the Ijtema 'Servants of Allah and Khilafat'. The program included competitions for Lajna and Nasirat, an exercise activity, a Meena Bazaar, a workshop on tarbiyat of daughters, and an interactive presentation on mental health.

#### Milwaukee

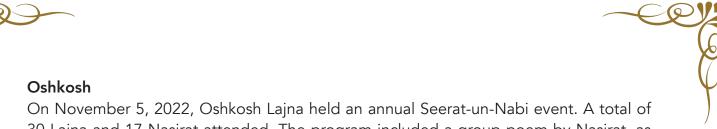
During Ramadan, a Holy Quran competition competition was held by Milkwaukee Lajna. A total of 46 Lajna and Nasirat participated in this competition, and 36 successfully completed the entire recitation of the Holy Quran. On Eid, gift boxes and certificates were presented to the participants. In August 2022, Milwaukee Lajna held a local Lajna ljtema. The focus of the Ijtema program was self-purification.











On November 5, 2022, Oshkosh Lajna held an annual Seerat-un-Nabi event. A total of 30 Lajna and 17 Nasirat attended. The program included a group poem by Nasirat, as well as a general knowledge quiz on the life of the Holy Prophet (pbuh).

#### **Phoenix**

In 2022, Phoenix Lajna and Nasirat held a local ljtema, as well as a Seerat-un-Nabi event. A special Lajna Centenary program was also hosted and attended by National Lajna Sadr sahiba.



#### Virginia North

On December 10, 2022, Virginia North Lajna and Nasirat held a Seerat-un-Nabi event. It was attended by 130 Lajna, 26 Nasirat, and 9 guests. The program included speeches on the following topics: "The Holy Prophet (pbuh): A Messenger of Mercy and Life of Compassion", "The Holy Prophet (pbuh), Promoter of Interfaith Harmony", and "Kindness of the Holy Prophet (pbuh)."

#### Virginia South

Virginia South Lajna hosted a Seerat-un-Nabi event. The program included several presentations in English and Urdu on the topics of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) and women's rights, the Promised Messiah's (as) love for the Holy Prophet (pbuh), and the Holy Prophet (pbuh) as the ambassador of supreme justice. A total of 172 Lajna attended, as well as 10 Nasirat and 5 guests.

#### Virginia North/Virginia Central

In January 2022, Virginia North and Virginia Central Lajna held a Seerat-un-Nabi program.

#### **Syracuse**

Syracuse Lajna held a Seerat-un-Nabi program on December 4, 2022. The event was attended by 13 Lajna. The program included a presentation by Nasirat on the life and revelations of the Holy Prophet (pbuh), and a workshop using the book "Life of Muhammad" as a guide. There was also a presentation on the Holy Prophet's (pbuh) treatment towards woman, as well as a speech presented in the Bosnian language about the life of the Holy Prophet (pbuh).

Submitted by Dr. Amtul Rehman Ahmad National Taleem Secretary, Lajna Ima'illah USA







## **Tarbiyat Matters**

A main focus of the Tarbiyyat program is Huzoor's (aba) weekly Friday sermon. The National Tarbiyyat department publishes a weekly quiz containing 2 questions.

- Each member should fill out the weekly quiz individually after listening to the sermon. Quizzes can be found on the Tarbiyyat page of lajnausa.net or by clicking here.
- Each mailis should have a discussion based on question #2 from these guizzes.

Majalis with highest Friday sermon quiz participation	Majalis consistently participating in Friday sermon quiz
VA-North	NY-Syracuse, AZ-Phoenix, CA-Bay Point, NY-
VA-South	Syracuse, VA-North,
NJ-North	VA-South, WI-Milwaukee

#### Select Inspiring Answers from Lajna Members

#### December 16, 2022 Question

The Promised Messiah (as) uses the example of a woman giving birth and a farmer sowing a seed to explain the philosophy and etiquette of prayer and its acceptance. What are the lessons he wishes to teach us from these examples?

- "That it is difficult to concentrate in salat all the time, but persistence pays off. We have to hang in tough and keep the progress going slowly but surely." (Milwaukee, WI)
- "After a period of pain and hard labor comes the time of ease and reward from Allah. Our prayers reach Allah in our anguish and relieves us from hardship it takes time." (Phoenix, AZ)
- "For successful prayer, one should be patient and steadfast and not think ill of God. The farmer, through his experience, knows that the process of planting a seed and nourishing it till it is full grown requires time. Similarly, everyone is aware of the many steps that must be taken to have a child, many of which are painstaking and difficult. A mother endures many pains to give birth to the child, and only after bearing pain and hardship does she find happiness in her child. In the same manner, in prayer, one must endure and be patient and not be quick to tire. After remaining persistent, one will witness the result of their prayers. So the lessons are to be patient, to endure hardship and difficulties in the process and never think ill of God, to self-assess if one is fully sincere in prayer i.e., giving it the proper attention and keeping to the right guidance to attract the Mercy of Allah and making an extra effort in hope and fear of Allah." (Boston, MA)

Submitted by Zuna Ahmad National Tarbiyat Secretary, Lajna Ima'illah USA





## **Tabligh Matters**

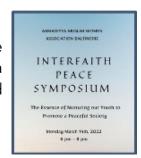


#### Albany

In Feburary 2022, four Lajna from Albany participated in a workshop where they conversed about global current events, including the perspective of Islam Ahmadiyyat on World War 3.

#### **Baltimore**

Oln March 14, 2022, Baltimore Lajna held an interfaith peace symposium titled "Essence of Nurturing Our Youth to Promote a Peaceful Society." Five guests from the Christian, Islamic, and Jewish faiths attended.



#### **Baypoint**

Lajna from Baypoint held an interfaith event on October 29, 2022 where guests learned about the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) and his love for God. A total of eight guests attended this event.

#### **Brooklyn**

Brooklyn Lajna organized an open forum focusing on "The Role of Religion in Black History" on February 17, 2022. A total of 48 guests attended this event where women spoke on Islam's arrival in America, especially within the African American community.

#### **Central Jersey**

Central Jersey Lajna hosted an iftar in April 2022 at College of St. Elizabeth. A total of 20 students participated in this event, where they were introduced to Ramadan traditions, purdah, belief in angels, and the challenges that women face when practicing Islam in America. In October 2022, Central Jersey Lajna organized an event titled "The Concept of God" where individuals from six religions came together to share their views on the existence of God. A total of 17 guests attended this event.

#### **Central Virginia**

On March 27, 2022, Central Virginia Lajna participated in an art exhibition that was attended by over 200 participants. Their exhibit, "Invitation to Ahmadiyyat", showcased the beliefs of Islam Ahmadiyyat while highlighting creativity and talent through artwork. In June 2022, Central Virginia Lajna hosted an interfaith event at Mubarak Mosque in Chantilly, Virginia. A total of three guests participated in this event. Women toured the mosque and gained insight on the teachings of Islam Ahmadiyyat.





In May and July 2022, Chicago Lajna hosted Tabligh events where women of different faiths gathered to learn about Ahmadiyyat and the motto "Love for All, Hatred for None." A total of seven guests attended each event.

#### Cleveland

On March 26, 2022, Cleveland Lajna organized a bookfair booth which highlighted common misconceptions of Islam, ways to promote peace, and how to avert a world crisis. A total of 35 individuals visited the booth. In June 2022, Cleveland Lajna organized a kayaking event on Cuyahoga Valley River with four guests, who were introduced to Islam Ahmadiyyat and Lajna Ima'illah.

#### Columbus

On September 22, 2022, Columbus Lajna organized a "Women's Right in Islam" stall that was visited by 60 guests. The interactive booth included trivia, literature on Jihad, terrorism and an introduction to Islam, and a "Try on a Hijab" station.

#### **Dayton**

In January 2022, Dayton Lajna participated in an event highlighting Prophet Moses (pbuh) in different faith traditions. Students came together to discuss the concept of true Islam and nearly 140 pieces of literature were distributed. A total of 30 guests attended this event.

#### **Detroit**

In September 2022, Detroit Lajna participated at an International Day of Peace event that was attended by 70 guests. During this event, women of various faiths connected over the united message of peace and emphasized "Love for All, Hatred for None." In November 2022, Detroit Lajna organized a Thanksgiving interfaith celebration, where



representatives from 12 different faiths gathered to express their gratitude of life and learn about the Islamic perspective of being thankful. A total of 71 participants attended this event. Detroit Lajna and Nasirat assembled 150 holiday gift bags in December 2022 to distribute in the community and build friendships.



#### Georgia/South Carolina

In February 2022, Georgia/South Carolina Lajna organized an online Black History Month program that was attended by 50 women. The presentations highlighted the accomplishments of pioneer Laina members and included personal anecdotes and experiences. In April 2022, Georgia/South Carolina Lajna hosted an interfaith iftar. Women gathered to discuss the importance of Ramadan and enjoyed an iftar dinner. A total of 22 guests attended, including a State Senate candidate. On June 11, 2022, Georgia/South Carolina Lajna hosted two guests at local program, "Khilafat: A Divine Leadership", which focused on the blessings of Khilafat. During the Malcom X Festival on May 21, 2022, an Absolute Justice booth was hosted by Lajna and displayed Islam Ahmadiyyat's perspective on



justice, women's rights, Prophet Jesus (pbuh) and the kindness shown by the Holy Prophet (pbuh). A total of nine guests visited the booth. On September 22, 2022, a seminar on "Stop World War 3" was held at Georgia State University. The program focused on the pathway to peace, and how harmony is important to prevent future crises. A total of three guests attended.

#### Houston

In celebration of Eid in July 2022, Houston Lajna gifted food platters with a note explaining the importance and origins of Eid-ul-Adha to two neighbors. An interfaith symposium was held on October 15, 2022 by Houston Lajna. The program focused on points from "World Crisis and Pathway to Peace" and was attended







In January 2022, the Soul-to-Soul interfaith meeting was hosted virtually by Maryland Lajna. The program included remarks from the National Lajna Tabligh Secretary and other faith representatives. A total of 58 guests participated.

#### Minnesota

An interfaith iftar was hosted at Coons Rapids Civic Center in April 2022. The program included a discussion with government officials and local representations on justice through compassion. A total of 15 guests attended.

#### Philadelphia

On March 23, 2022, Philadelphia Lajna hosted a trivia game on the Holy Quran during "HerStory", an event celebrating women's history month at Temple University. A total of 105 attendees participated.

#### Seattle

On December 10, 2022, Seattle Lajna organized a peace symposium that was attended by 15 guests. The program included presentations on peace in the Holy Quran, and the importance of spreading love amongst sisters, especially those of different faiths.

#### **Syracuse**

In April 2022, Syracuse Lajna hosted an annual interfaith iftar that was attended by 25 guests. During the program, the true teachings of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) were presented, as well as the importance of Ramadan in the current world situation.



#### Virginia North

In May 2022, Lajna from Viginia North invited 35 guests to their homes for Eid celebrations. On August 10, 2022, a lunch was held with six members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints from Ashburn, Virginia. During this meeting, Virginia North Lajna introduced the guests to the Stop World War 3 campaign. Virginia North Lajna hosted an online



program on women's rights in Islam on September 24, 2022. A total of five guests attended. A total of 20 Virginia North Lajna participated in a morning of service of event on September 24, 2022. During this event, Lajna created gifts for veterans and children while having meaningful conversations about faith with other women. Virginia North Lajna hosted in a Salaam/Shalom Sisterhood meeting on November 20, 2022. Women of the Jewish faith learned about Khalifatul Masih V (aba) and his visit to Zion, Illinois. They discussed the unifying experience of Khilafat and how important a global and guiding leader is for the success of Islam Ahmadiyyat. A total of five guests attended. In December 2022, Virginia North Lajna sent 367 holiday greeting cards and 34 gifts to connect with their local community during the holiday season. Virginia North Lajna hosted a Seerat-un-Nabi program on December 10, 2022. The program focused on Islam Ahmadiyyat's message of love, humility, and kindness in accordance with the Holy Prophet's (pbuh) teachings. A total of nine guests attended.

#### Virginia South

On March 12, 2022, Virginia South Lajna hosted an interfaith event at Masroor Mosque on the pathway to peace through faith. Women from various faith backgrounds shared their beliefs on their role in bringing peace within the home and communities. A total of 13 guests attended. On August 20, 2022, Virginia South Lajna hosted a Holy Quran exhibition. During this event, women from different backgrounds were enlightened on the teachings of the Holy Quran and the true Islamic practices. A total of nine guests attended.

#### Virginia South & Central Virginia

On April 8, 2022, Lajna from Virginia South and Central Virginia co-hosted an iftar dinner that was attended by 51 guests, including state representatives and Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton.

#### Jalsa Salana USA 2022

During Jalsa Salana USA 2022, National Lajna Tabligh department organized a booth to welcome the guests of the Promised Messiah (as) and displayed banners with verses of the Holy Quran.

#### 2022 USA Tour of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba) – Zion, Illinois

In October 2022, a dinner was held to celebrate the inauguration of Fath-e-Azeem Mosque in Zion, Illinois by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba). Lajna hosted eight guests to this special event.

Submitted by Dr. Amatul Quddus Ayaz-Shams National Tabligh Secretary, Lajna Ima'illah USA







## Khidmat-e-Khalq Matters

#### **Central South Region**

Central South Lajna partnered with Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee services and NOVA Rafters to furnish a home for an Afghan family that had arrived as refugees in United States. Lajna from Virginia Central, Virginia North, and Virginia South arranged a drive in their local mosques to collect furniture, kitchen items, toiletries, linens and other necessary items. On January 22, 2022, Lajna from Central South region drove to the apartment of a newly arrived Afghan family of five and helped furnish their home. Along with furniture and household items, essential grocery items were stocked, and a warm meal was prepared for the family.

#### Chicago

Chicago Lajna collected over 100 items to donate at a drive taking place at Triton College for the people of Ukraine.

In September 2022, Chicago Lajna collected and donated school supplies to assist Title 1 schools. They filled 114 backpacks for students at Title 1 schools through the Hanover Township School Supply Drive. They also collected and donated \$1,265 to the Childcare Network of Evanston.

#### Willingboro

In September 2022, 11 Lajna participated in a Jama'at event to bring, prepare and distribute 2000 pounds of food to 34 families. Additionally, 63





pairs of sandals, 84 pairs of socks and four school bags filled with supplies were delivered to Catholic Charities for their women's shelter.

Submitted by Cassandra Shafeek National Khidmat-e-Khalq Secretary, Lajna Ima'illah USA









#### 72nd Annual Jalsa Salana USA 17 June-19 June 2022

By the grace of Allah, the Tarbiyyat Nau Mubaiyat team met at 2022 Jalsa Salana USA and held a meet and greet luncheon with new convert sisters, Alhamdulilah. Our new sisters shared their journey to Islam Ahmadiyyat. It was a special and wonderful experience. Their names are as follows:

- Zara Sonali Chaudhry (Brooklyn)
- Kitty Kazey (Research Triangle)
- Rosa Lane (South VA)
- Sabrina Zakria (Chicago)
- Baila Wariach (Albany)

Alhamdulilah, our new convert sisters were invited to the main stage during the Lajna Jalsa Salana program and were presented with a welcome packet. The packets included copies of the Holy Quran.













## Media Watch Matters

As more people were vaccinated or developed immunity by contracting COVID-19, the daily numbers showed a downward trend. Schools were returning to in-person learning and workplaces gave employees the option to work on a hybrid basis. People across the world began to feel that life was finally coming back to normal.

Lajna Media Watch writers published 116 articles in 2022. A total of 54 Lajna and Nasirat authored articles. Topics included World Interfaith Harmony Week, the genocide of Uyghur Muslims, World Hijab Day, animals in pandemic, social media and its impact on mental health, the effect on the pandemic on humanity, as well as annually recurring topics such as Black History Month, Women's History Month, Ramadan, Thanksgiving, and Jesus (pbuh) in Islam. As Lajna Imai'llah celebrated one hundred years of establishment, Lajna Media Watch was active on social media and posted content on X (Twitter) and Instagram.

The following is a list of select published articles:

- Raazia Riffat's article about Interfaith Harmony week was published in the Oshkosh Herald. Her article appears on p. 8.
   <a href="https://oshkoshherald.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/February-2-2022-Oshkosh-Herald.pdf">https://oshkoshherald.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/February-2-2022-Oshkosh-Herald.pdf</a>
- Attiya Ghani expressed her feelings about the brutal treatment of Uyghur Muslims in China. Her article was published in the Khabar magazine. https://www.khabar.com/magazine/readers-write/letters-from-readers\_52
- Amtul Sara Wakeel published an article on the effects of social media on mental health.
  - https://medium.com/@faithandspirituality/effects-of-social-media-on-mental-health-an-islamic-perspective-3ebcbfa68318
- Laaibah Tayyeb talked about the basics of Ramadan in an article published in the Teen Magazine.
  - https://www.theteenmagazine.com//ramadan-2022-everything-you-need-to-know
- Ujala Yousaf wrote about ways to be generous during the occasion of Thanksgiving.
   https://basketball4manu.medium.com/december-the-month-of-giving-153ad06a23fb

Follow us on: X (Twitter) @lajnamediausa Instagram @lajnausa

Submitted by Shahina Bashir National Muavina Sadr In-Charge Media Watch, Lajna Ima'illah USA







## **Nasirat Matters**

## Chicago

In August 2022, Chicago Nasirat conducted a DIY crafts project to make paper baskets. A total of 11 Nasirat participated in this activity.









Dayton Nasirat held a food fundraiser event for the African Model Village project at the mosque. Nasirat prepared burgers, noodles, fruit salad, baked brownies, tea, and drinks for the members. A total of \$225 was raised through the event.



#### **Detroit**

On February 22, 2022, a special event, "Love for Masjid Mahmood" was hosted for Detriot Nasirat. The event included a pizza party and games for Nasirat to increase their love for the mosque. Nasirat were able to enjoy food, games, sports, and the opportunity to ask questions to the local Murrabi. The program ended with Dars and congregational prayers.



As part of Tahir Academy, Detroit Nasirat held a science day on March 13, 2022 to encourage 7 to 15 year-old girls to pursue higher education in science fields, and to build confidence from a young age. The session had a mix of hands-on activities and small demonstrations. This included building aluminum foil models of enveloped and non-enveloped viruses, making handmade lava lamps to take home, hands-on

demonstrations of thermal conductivity, static energy accumulation and discharge, and more.

On April 1, 2022, Detroit Nasirat and young Lajna took part in a supervised handson cooking, baking, and decorating session that was arranged by the local Lajna President, Lajna Ziafat Secretary, and Nasirat



Secretary. During baking and cooking times, attendees had supervised play time for exploring nature on Masjid Mahmood grounds. Everyone returned to enjoy the food they cooked together. This was followed by a Q&A session with Murabbi Sahib, and the evening ended with congregational prayers.

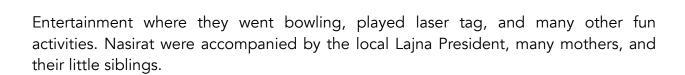
#### **Fort Worth**

Fort Worth Nasirat had the great opportunity to welcome Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V

(aba) with a welcome tarana at Bait-ul-Qayum mosque in Fort Worth on October, 2022. Fort Worth Nasirat had a field trip to Main Event







Fort Worth Nasirat had a sleepover at the mosque for New Year's Eve. After Maghrib and Isha prayers, they listened to educational presentations and participated in letter writing to Huzoor (aba). Nasirat also learned how to make a salad platter, which was presented to everyone and enjoyed alongside dinner.

#### Georgia/South Carolina

During Ramdan, 15 Georgia/South Carolina Nasirat took part in completing the Daily Salat Tracker. About 16 Nasirat took part in filling out a Ramadan Goals form where they submitted their goals and action plans. The majority of the Nasirat were able to reach their goals. During this month, ten Nasirat also participated in a tabligh activity. Nasirat were encouraged to bake or cook something with their mothers or fathers, and then share it with their neighbors along with a note from the local Lajna Tabligh secretary.



On May 1, 2022, 12 Nasirat came the day before Eid-ul Fitr to decorate the mosque and to get henna. All the Nasirat worked together and helped each other with cutting tape, holding chairs for one another to stand on, and providing guidance on placing the decorations.

The local Nasirat Ijtema was held on August 20th, 2022. The program included competitions for recitation of

the Holy Quran, memorization, and speech compeitions, as well as a workshop on the book, "The Need for the Imam." There was also a workshop on hijab styling.

#### Houston

Houston Nasirat held the second Qaseeda challenge in 2022. They were able to choose a level and memorize as many couplets as they are most comfortable memorizing (Level 1: 5 couplets, Level 2: 10 couplets, Level 3: 15 couplets, and Level 4: 20 couplets). Nasirat were tested in different ways. They were randomly asked to fill

the missing part from the couplets that they learned. Nasirat were also given the number and the first word of a couplet, and they had to complete the couplet.

On October 29, 2022, Houston Nasirat held their Houston Nasirat Rally at Bait-us-Samee mosque. The Nasirat had a Halloween presentation, did Salat, participated in sports and games, and received Nasirat books and bags given with the Nasirat logo. A

total of 31 Nasirat attended the program.

#### Oshkosh

In February 2022, Oshkosh Nasirat took part in a hygiene collection drive arranged by Lajna at the mosque.

In March 2022, four Oshkosh Nasirat, along with Lajna, packed 42 boxes of pasta and 15 snack bags for Hope Fridge, a fridge in downtown Oshkosh where people put food for the needy.



Nasirat also helped in setting up the boxes in the fridge.

In March 2022, Oshkosh Nasirat made fridge magnets that said "Love for All, Hatred for None" during their first in-person meeting since the pandemic.





#### Philadelphia

On March 20, 2022, Philadelphia Nasirat held a fundraising event in order to collect money for the Nasirat bowling trip after Ramadan. The Nasirat had henna stalls and artists decorated hands with henna. They were able to raise \$150 in total.

#### Queens

During Ramadan, six Queens Nasirat assisted with packaging gift bags for guests of the local Iftar dinner at the mosque. They also made flower arrangements for centerpieces, and ironed tablecloths. Seven Nasirat had invited guests for the dinner.

During the regional Ijtema in 2022, Queens Nasirat helped fundraise for Lajna during the Meena Bazaar. They set up a Nasirat table with their own homemade cupcakes, brownies, and cookies, and made cotton candy on the spot. They were able to raise \$188 for Lajna.

In November 2022, Queens Nasirat went with Umoore Talibaat on an educational field trip to the Liberty Science Museum in New Jersey.

Queens Nasirat held a social event on December 30, 2022, beginning with Friday prayers, and ending with Isha prayers in the mosque. Nasirat participated in letter writing to Huzoor (aba), making gingerbread mosques, Jeopardy, charades, and different sports.

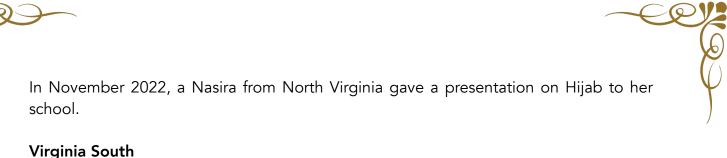
#### Virginia North

On November 12, 2022, Viriginia North Nasirat took part in a bake sale to raise funds to donate for the Mubarak Mosque Hall. Many Nasirat donated using their own money and made the baked goods themselves.

In April 2023, Virginia North Nasirat gave presentations on Ramadan to classmates. In addition, one Nasira had her article on Ramadan published in the newspaper.







South Virginia's Nasirat and Waqifat departments collaborated to hold a Funday on July 29, 2022. Approximately 40 Nasirat attended. The program included watching a movie, handicraft activities, playing in a game room, and writing letters to Huzoor (aba).

On December 26, 2022, a winter camp was held for girls and boys in age group 5-10 years old. The camp program included a presentation on Salat postures and practice, a session with Murrabi Sahib on financial sacrifices as well as a Q&A session. A writing workshop was held by Media Watch Lajna on how to write for local newspapers, and there was a booth for writing a letter to Huzoor (aba) to request prayers for the new year. There were also craft activities and sports.

Submitted by Nurjamila Bahri National Nasirat Secretary, Lajna Ima'illah USA









## **Umoore Talibaat Matters**

#### **Baltimore**

Umoore Talibaat from Baltimore conducted several Ramadan activities in April 2022. A verse from the Holy Qur'an or hadith with a brief explanation were shared in written format every day during this month. Additionally, the Umoore Talibaat collected \$840 to host an iftar dinner. Prior to the iftar dinner, they collectively wrote letters to Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba). As part of their monthly cooking challenge, Umoore Talibaat exchanged recipes and shared an iftar dinner at a restaurant as an Umoore Talibaat outing.

#### **Central Jersey**

In April 2022, Umoore Talibaat from Central Jersey held a Ramadan event with AMSAW titled "RU Fasting?" at Rutgers University. This event was attended by 42 people, including 26 non-Ahmadis. The program included presentations by speakers of various faiths, including Buddhism, Hinduism, Catholicism, Judaism and Islam and a question-and-answer session. After the program ended, participants opened their fasts and had dinner. Each guest was gifted a copy of "World Crisis and the Pathway to



Peace" by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba), and chocolate. Umoore Talibaat also held a "Coffee, Cake and True Islam" event that included distributing materials on Islam and answering questions on various aspects of Islam.

In August 2022, Umoore Talibaat held a social event at the mosque. Twenty Umoore Talibaat created paintings and had dinner together during this event. During the local Lajna ijtema, Umoore Talibaat held a workshop on gossip, rumors and suspicion, and discussed the Islamic teachings on this topic. During this month, Umoore Talibaat also organized an outing to go paddle boating, and a trip to the bowling and laser tag center. A virtual meeting was held and ways of increasing participation were discussed, along with the topics of keeping good company, mental health, time management, and studying tips.



In September 2022, Central Jersey Umoore Talibaat organized an AMSAW booth at Rutger University's annual club fair. A total of 28 people signed up at the booth, and 32 fliers for "Coffee, Cake and True Islam" were distributed. Two "Coffee, Cake, and True Islam" were held during this month; 37 guests and nine guests attended, respectively, and literature including books and flyers were distributed. During these events, questions were answered about hijab, why Ahmadi Muslims are persecuted, finding God, Muslim women, Islam and Ahmadiyyat. An interfaith game night was also hosted by AMSAW Rutgers during this month and was attended by over 30 guests. After remarks on Islam, participants played board games and other activities.

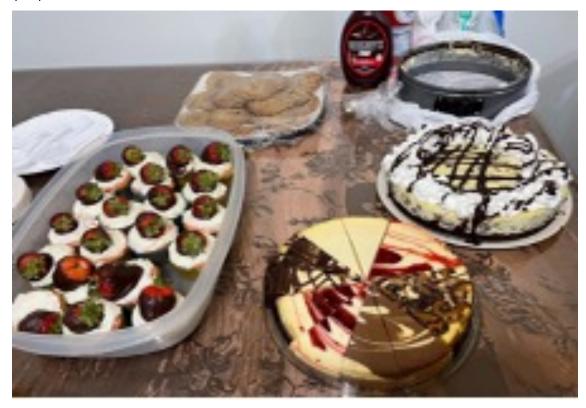
In December 2022, Central Jersey Umoore Talibaat held an in-person event to discuss issues relating to LGBTQ. This event was attended by 25 people. The program included a review of specific Islamic guidance on this topic, as well as a question-and-answer session.

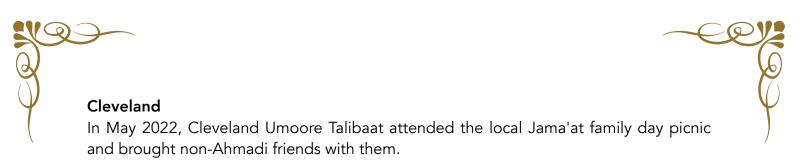
#### **Central South Region**

In February 2022, Umoore Talibaat from Virginia Central, Virginia North and Virginia South participated in a Khidmate Khalq activity to assist an Afghan refugee family.

#### Chicago

In April 2022, Chicago Umoore Talibaat assisted in hosting an iftar event at the mosque and prepared desserts for the event.





In June 2022, Cleveland Umoore Talibaat invited non-Ahmadi friends to a kayaking outing on the Cuyahoga Valley River. During this outing, they introduced their friends to Lajna Ima'illah and the Ahmadiyya Jama'at.

In July 2022, Cleveland Umoore Talibaat participated in the local Independence Day parade in Bedford, Ohio with Lajna and Jama'at members.

In August 2022, Cleveland Umoore Talibaat coordinated educational and social activities during the local Lajna and Nasirat Ijtema. They also assisted with the Meena Bazaar held during Ijtema and fundraised \$1000 during the event.

In September 2022, Cleveland Umoore Talibaat participated in a Jama'at picnic. They prepared dessert and participated in hiking and sports.

#### Columbus

In April 2022, Columbus Umoore Talibaat held a 'Make a Blanket' activity at the mosque. The Umoore Talibaat made five blankets that were donated to a center for youth experiencing difficulties. The activity was followed by lunch and congregational prayer.





#### Georgia/South Carolina

In August 2022, Umoore Talibaat from Georgia/South Carolina participated in a career awareness program held in collaboration with the local handicraft department. They learned about careers in engineering, IT, security, pharmacy, and wedding decoration.

In September 2022, Georgia/South Carolina Umoore Talibaat set up their own stall at their local Meena Bazaar and fundraised \$300. They sold framed photos of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba),



wall hangings of Quranic verses, mystery bags and other items. Their stall also included interactive activities such as a hula-hoop competition, a rope jumping competition, canvas painting and a photo booth.

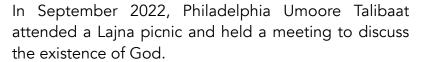
Georgia/South Carolina Umoore Talibaat participated in a Jama'at event titled "Stop World War 3" and invited student guests to this event, including the Muslim Students Association at Georgia State University.

#### Maryland

In February 2022, Umoore Talibaat from Maryland discussed the topic "Marriage and Career" with 15 students and viewed videos of relevant guidance from Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba).

#### Philadelphia

In March 2022, Philadelphia Umoore Talibaat participated in a women's history month event, "HerStory" at Temple University, where a trivia game of Islam was led by Lajna.





#### Virginia Central

In February 2022, Virginia Central Umoore Talibaat participated in the creation of an art exhibit on the book "Invitation to Ahmadiyyat." They each selected a phrase or piece of writing from the book and created an art form to display and explain the quote, including calligraphy, woodwork, and painting. The art was exhibited at the Spring Art Festival hosted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and attended by 200 people. During this month, Virginia Central Umoore Talibaat also published four articles.







#### Virginia South

In February 2022, Umoore Talibaat from Virginia South held an event titled "Marriage and Career - A Harmonious Balance or a Struggle." A total of 28 Umoore Talibaat participated in this event, as well as 19 other attendees, including the panelists and mothers. A panel of Lajna addressed questions which had been sent in anonymously before the event, as well as live questions and comments.

In March 2022, Virginia South Umoore Talibaat organized a trip to Top Golf in National Harbor, Maryland. The trip included team building, competitions, and a buffet lunch. The attendees were given small gifts in appreciation of observing proper purdah and excellent behavior.





Submitted by Dr. Aziza Rahman National Umoore Talibaat Secretary, Lajna Ima'illah USA







## Umoore Public Affairs Matters



More than 300 instances of distorted image of Islam being taught in schools were identified.

- Held a national webinar on Women's Rights in Islam in Sep. 2022. Around 300 women attended; 65 were guests; most were local or state officials; Rep. Speier attended; Rep. Judy Chu sent a video message.
- · Comprehensive materials for meeting with public officials and holding Women's Rights in Islam seminars were prepared, including:
  - Detailed guidelines for identifying public officials at local and state level:
  - Email templates for meeting requests, seminar invites, and follow-ups;
  - Flyer for Women's Rights in Islam seminar;
  - Presentation slide-deck for Women's Rights in Islam seminar;
  - One pager on Women's Rights in Islam;
  - Gift bags with Laina logo;





LAJNA IMA'ILLAH•USA ahmadiyya muslim community women's auxiliary

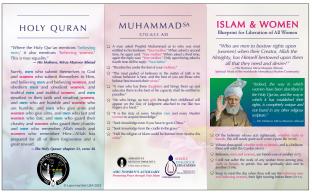
Women's Rights in Islam: A Blueprint for Liberation of All Women

Saturday, September 24, 2022 11am PT/2pm ET, via Zoom

@LajnaMediaUSA

https://tinyurl.com/WomensRightsInIslam

Trifold on Women & Islam.



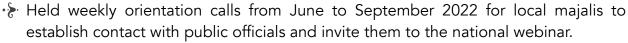


AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY

Note: This is a women-only ev





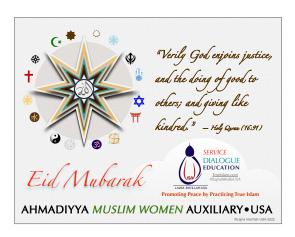


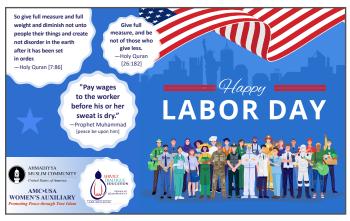
More than 3000 Season's Greetings were sent as Holiday Prayer. Ramadan Mubarak, Eid Mubarak and Labor Day greetings were shared locally and on social media.





National Executive Committee, Lajna Ima'illah-USA: Dhiya Tahira Bakr (President), Mahmoda Rehman, Mabroor Jattala, Dr. Aziza Rahman, Amatul Hai Ahmad, Sabahat Ali, Sahar Choudhan, Zuna Ahmad, Dr. Amtul Rehman, Dr. Amatul Quddus, Cassandra Shafeek, Laeeqa Mirza, Nurjamila Bahri, Sadeeka Kukoyi, Najmi Azam, Rehana Wali, Samantha Issam, Rugaya Asad, Samina Noor, Dr. Khadijat Ogunbiyi, Nakasha Ahmad, Aziza Rana, Noor Bhatti, Shahina Bashir, Shazia Sohail, Mubarika Shah, Nycemah Yaqub, Amatul Musawir, Saliha Malik







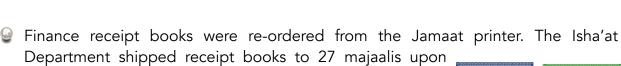
- · Crafted Social Media Guidelines.
- Created the Twitter account Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA - Women's Auxiliary. Follow us on @AMC\_WomenUSA.

Submitted by Shazia Sohail National Muavina Sadr In-Charge of Public Affairs Lajna Ima'illah USA









The December 2021 issue of Lajna Matters was published online in English and Urdu and hard copies were provided to each local Sadr and the National Amila.

their request and arranged pick up at Jalsa for 25 majaalis.

- Two children's books resulting from a Lajna shura proposal were successfully marketed and sold at the US Jalsa Salana.
- Isha'at Billing to collected payments for the Ayesha, Lajna workbooks and Lajna books to recoup the cost of printing.
- 9 1,150 copies of the Winter 2022 issue of the Ayesha, "2020" A Journey of Reclamation", were published and distributed to the local majaalis and sold to the members.
- 115 copies of the Lajna national program were prepared, printed and distributed to the local Sadran and National Amila.
- 3,480 copies of the Laina Taleem and Tarbiyyat workbook were published and shipped to the local majaalis to be sold to the members.
- Reviewed edits in the Lajna History Book as requested by the Jamaat Isha'at Secretary and returned them to him for final approval.







Secretary Isha'at worked with a dedicated team to set up and sell Lajna and jamaat publications at the Lajna bookstall at Jalsa Salana USA. Alhamdulillah, it was the highest sales Lajna has had.

Submitted by Rugaiya Asad National Publications Secretary, Lajna Ima'illah USA











ADVERSITY

Two Movements, One Motto and a Test of Faith Response Khalifa



# Lajna Matters

A publication of Lajna Ima'illah USA and Nasiratul Ahmadiyya USA, Auxiliaries of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. This issue of the Lajna Matters was compiled, under the guidance of National Sadr Lajna Ima'illah, by the National Lajna Publications Team. The Lajna Matters team wishes to thank the National Amila, Local and Regional Sadran who contributed submissions for this issue. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

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Sadr Lajna Ima'illah USA

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1 shall always be ready to sacrifice... for the cause of faith and nation

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